

HOUSE No. 1149

By Mr. Koutoujian of Waltham, petition of Peter J. Koutoujian and others relative to the establishment of a commission for the elimination of health disparities within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. Health Care Financing.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Peter J. Koutoujian	James E. Timilty
Barbara A. L'Italien	Byron Rushing
James B. Eldridge	Kay Khan

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE COMMISSION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF HEALTH DISPARITIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 There shall be a commission for the elimination of racial and
2 ethnic health disparities, to be known as the Massachusetts commis-
3 sion for the elimination of health disparities, within the executive
4 office of health and human services. The commission shall be in the
5 charge of a commissioner who shall be known as the commissioner
6 for the elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities.

7 The commissioner for the elimination of racial and ethnic health
8 disparities shall be appointed by the secretary of health and human
9 services, with the approval of the governor for a term of five years
10 and until his successor is duly appointed and qualified. The position
11 of commissioner shall be classified in accordance with Section forty-
12 five of Chapter thirty and the salary shall be determined in accor-
13 dance with Section forty-six C of said Chapter thirty and he shall
14 devote his entire time to the duties of his office during business
15 hours.

16 The commissioner for the elimination of racial and ethnic health
17 disparities shall monitor and assess programs and regulations pro-

18 mulgated by the agencies and departments within the executive
19 office of health and human services to determine whether such pro-
20 grams and regulations foster the elimination of health disparities.
21 The commissioner shall, on an annual basis, file a report with the
22 secretary, the speaker of the house of representatives, the president
23 of the senate, the clerk of the house of representatives and the clerk
24 of the senate, concerning the progress of the effort to eliminate
25 health disparities in the commonwealth of Massachusetts and any
26 significant opportunities and impediments towards achieving that
27 end. The commissioner may also at his discretion provide testimony
28 before the General Court on legislation that will impact efforts to
29 eliminate health disparities, as well as, hold public hearings and
30 solicit input from experts, advocates and the general public on sub-
31 ject matter relevant to the elimination of health disparities.